

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed March 26, 2004 ("Office Action"). At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-18 were pending in the application. In order to advance prosecution of this case, Applicants amend Claim 7. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejects Claims 1-18. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Section 112 Rejections

The Examiner rejects Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as their invention. Applicants have amended Claim 7 as required by the Examiner. Applicants submit that Claim 7 is in accordance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 7 be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

The *Chen* Reference is Unavailable as Prior Art to Applicants' Claims

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-5, 10, 11, and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,591,324 issued to Chen et al. ("*Chen*"). The Examiner also rejects Claims 6-9, 12, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Chen*. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons stated below.

Applicants submit, concurrent with this response, an Affidavit under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 that establishes a date of invention prior to July 12, 2000. Therefore, Applicants respectfully contend that the *Chen* reference is no longer available to the Examiner to support a rejection of Claims 1-11 and 13-17. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully contend that *Chen* does not disclose, teach or suggest the inventions as defined in Claims 1-11 and 13-17.

Conclusions

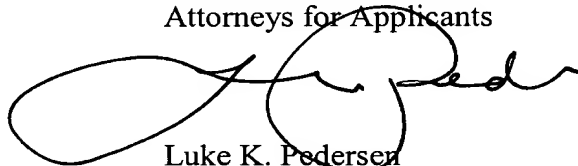
Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For the foregoing reasons, and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all pending Claims. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference or an interview would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the undersigned attorney for Applicants stand ready to conduct such a conference at the convenience of the Examiner.

Applicants hereby take an Extension of Time for responding to the Examiner's Office Action dated March 26, 2004. A separate Notification of Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for one (1) month from June 26, 2004 to July 26, 2004 with a check in the amount of \$55.00 is enclosed herewith.

Applicants believe no other fee is due, however; should there be a fee discrepancy, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 7/19/04

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